Preventing Death and Injury
How ‘risk education’ is helping vulnerable communities in Myanmar
Cover story

Kaw Ye Ung stood on a landmine in Myanmar when he was 16. “I went into the bushes to go to the toilet and there was a massive explosion,” he said, “I did not know there were mines there.”

Ung lost both of his legs in the tragic accident, but has a very positive outlook on life:

“I have a tricycle, which makes me mobile, allowing me to travel around the village. The Government and the UN helped me with training and tools, and now I repair televisions for a living.”

“Landmines are terrible things,” he says. “They take away lives and they threaten lives. I have tried to make the most of my life and not let the landmine accident get me down.”

“I dream of opening a TV repair shop, which would also be a barbers shop. I am good at cutting hair as well as fixing televisions.”

Ung’s strength and attitude to life are humbling. He is extremely well-liked and respected in the community of Lawpita, in Myanmar’s Kayah State, where he lives with his aunt.

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All photos © Sean Sutton/MAG unless otherwise stated
Welcome to Impact magazine!

As our first issue of the year, it’s both a chance for us to reflect on our work in 2014, and to also look at some of the projects MAG is working on in 2015.

Over the past 12 months, we have made a direct difference to the lives of more than one million people. This is an incredible achievement which would not be possible without our donors and supporters. Yet we know there is still much more to be done.

This year we are continuing our work in Myanmar after launching a pilot programme there in 2013. With more than five million people suspected of living in areas contaminated by landmines and other explosive weapons, the need for MAG’s work is ever present. You can see photos from our education programme on pages four and five, showing how simple games and pictures can save lives.

We also bring you the story of Fonderie 47, a jewellery company making a big impact by using metal reclaimed from weapons in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and meet Abdilahi Elmi Good, who helps make communities safer in Somaliland.

Thank you for everything you helped us achieve in 2014 and I hope you can continue to help us make a difference in 2015. We simply wouldn’t be able to do it without you.

Nick Roseveare
Chief Executive
MAG
Preventing Death and Injury

Your support means ‘risk education’ is helping vulnerable communities in the south-east Asian country of Myanmar

Armed conflict between Myanmar’s Government and ethnic armed groups means that more than five million people are now suspected of living in areas contaminated by landmines and other explosive weapons.

MAG is currently providing ‘risk education’ in the eastern state of Kayah, with 17 mine-affected communities that are living with the daily threat of death and injury.

These lifesaving sessions include, for example:

• How to recognise landmines
• How to report a dangerous item
• What to do in an emergency
• Warning clues and signs for mined areas
• How to keep others safe.

Getting children to (a) understand the risks and, (b) act in a safe manner, can be a particular challenge, and lessons built around games, role-play and drama have proved to be very effective.

The photo at the top of this page shows one of these risk education games at Daw Hsaw Phya School, with pupils racing to place pictures in baskets marked ‘Safe’ or ‘Danger’.

The images are a mixture of explosive and everyday items (such as clocks and fruit). A child’s ability to correctly identify a landmine or other deadly device could save his or her life.

Headmaster, U Soe Win Naing, said: “We are very grateful that MAG has come here and given us lessons to help us be safe. There was a lot of fighting here in the past, so these safety lessons are very important, especially for the children.”
Mary Su Su provides life-saving ‘risk education’ lessons at Daw Hsaw Phya School.
MAG in 2014

Over 20 million square metres of land was made safe...

More than 1.1 million men, women and children directly benefited from MAG’s work.

Around 1,300,000 people benefited indirectly...

MAG cleared more than 80,000 landmines, cluster bombs and other unexploded devices.

Destroyed more than 900,000 items of ammunition.

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In 2014

- More than 800,000 mines, cluster bombs, and other deadly devices were destroyed.
- Over 900,000 items of ammunition were built or refurbished.
- More than 18,000 Explosive Ordnance Disposal spot tasks were carried out by our teams.
- And we gave more than 16,000 ‘risk education’ sessions to help people stay safe until land is cleared.

Making land safe for...

Access to water sources; Housing; Roads; Healthcare; Development; Shelter for refugees; Schools
“Every day, I learn a new thing,” says Abdilahi Elmi Good, who is responsible for managing the construction of armouries throughout Somaliland.

Tell us a little about what your job entails...
I carry out site visits to decide the best way to approach the construction and prepare the designs and layouts. I am the link between contractors and ‘client’, who might be the police or another security provider. I make sure what happens on site meets their needs, ensuring that weapons will be safely stored.

What difference to you think MAG is making?
Before, weapons were being sold openly. Every soldier used to take their weapon home on their shoulder, because they had no place to store them in the base. Now, weapons, ammunition and explosives are stored in secure armouries, stopping weapons falling into the wrong hands.

How did you first become aware of MAG?
I graduated from university in 2011, then worked on a lot of different construction projects - mostly residential houses and apartments.

One day at the end of 2012, I saw a newspaper advert for the National Construction Manager post. I had to take two exams and was offered the job the following February. I started working immediately. By day two I was already out of the office and on site!

What’s the most rewarding part of your job?
It has been good for my career in many ways. One example is: when I started I couldn’t speak English fluently, the way I am speaking to you now. Another thing is, this job is always a challenge.
Get Involved

Today, nine people will lose their lives or suffer serious injury because of landmines and other unexploded devices. You can help...

GET CREATIVE

MAG’s fantastic fundraisers have organised

• gigs, quizzes, auctions and raffles;
• hosted coffee mornings, clothes swaps and wine tastings;
• baked cakes;
• shown films; and
• sold their stuff on Ebay

to make land and lives safe!

You can get your school, faith group or company involved too!

Anything goes!

GET ACTIVE

Whether you’re a runner or a cyclist, a trekker or a triathlete, you can use your own place in any organised challenge event to fundraise for MAG.

Ride London 2 August 2015. We have spaces on this iconic 100 mile ride, starting from the Olympic Park, following a route through the capital and on into the Surrey countryside.

Find out more here: www.maginternational.org/getinvolved

We’d love to hear more about your fundraising plans. Please get in touch by emailing fundraising@maginternational.org or calling 0161 236 4311 for support, advice and materials.
From Guns to Jewellery

MAG partners Fonderie 47 have created a venture with a long-term and tangible impact in central Africa

“This is a very tangible action. It’s not a peace conference. Let’s take a device that makes people dead and get rid of it.” So said Fonderie 47 co-founder, Peter Thum in a recent interview.

Fonderie 47 is a high-end jewellery company with a difference. Their brand of watches, bracelets, rings and other accessories are helping rid the Democratic Republic of Congo and other central African countries of deadly weaponry.

Each item they design is created in part using the melted down and recycled metal from assault weapons from Africa. Their collections are unique, but don’t come cheap. A pair of cufflinks made from white gold and blackened Fonderie 47 steel, and bearing the serial number of the weapon from which the steel was wrought, will set you back $9,000. However, proceeds from the purchase will enable the destruction of 45 assault weapons.

Since 2011, a portion of each sale has supported a MAG project based in the Democratic Republic of Congo’s capital city Kinshasa, where weapons are destroyed using specially designed hydraulic shears.

To date, more than 45,000 guns have been taken out of circulation and cut up in such a way that not only renders the weapon utterly useless, but also means that parts can’t be re-used elsewhere.

Named after the French word for foundry and the numeric tag designated to the assault rifles, Peter Thum and co-founder John Zapolsk have created a venture that’s both making a difference and that results, through their partnership with MAG, in tangible action and long-term impact.

Visit www.fonderie47.com for more information.
Yes, I would like to support MAG with a monthly donation

1. Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms):
   [Fields for Name, Address, Postcode, Tel/Mobile, Email]

2. YES - I want to make a monthly gift to MAG of
   £5 [ ] £10 [ ] £15 [ ] or £ [ ]
   starting on 01 / / (enter month and year)
   Please make the starting month at least two weeks from today

3. Please fill in the Direct Debit form below:

   ![Direct Debit Form]

   Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit
   Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society
   To the Manager
   Address
   Postcode
   Names of Account Holder(s)
   Branch Sort Code
   Bank/Building Society account number
   Reference
   Service User Number
   [2 8 5 7 3 3]
   Instruction to your Bank or Building Society
   Please pay The Mines Advisory Group Direct Debits from the
   account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards
   assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this
   Instruction may remain with The Mines Advisory Group and, if so,
   details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.
   Signature(s)
   Date

4. YES - I want to increase the value of my donation to MAG by 25% at no extra cost
   [ ] I am a UK tax payer and I want to treat any donation that I have made during the previous four years and all future
donations, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations. I pay UK income tax and/or capital gains tax for each tax year
(6 April to 5 April) at least equal to the amount all charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs reclaim on all my donations
(currently 25p for each £1 donated). I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax
do not qualify.
   [ ] No - I am not a UK tax payer.

5. YES - I'd like to know more about leaving a gift for MAG in my will.
   Please send me more details to the address above.

6. Please return this donation form to MAG Appeal, FREEPOST, MAG

Thank you!
Life-Changing Gifts

By making a gift in your will, no matter how large or small, you are helping communities living with the daily threat of landmines and other unexploded weapons.

The children pictured here go to Phonsy Secondary School in Xieng Khoang province, Laos.

The legacy of the Vietnam War – during which Laos became the most bombed country on earth per capita – meant that they feared what they may come across in the ground on their way to classes each day.

Then MAG made the land in and around the school safe.

If you would like to find out how a gift in your will could make a difference, please complete your details overleaf and return the form to us.

You can also contact us at 0161 236 4311 or fundraising@maginternational.org.

Please help us build a better future for children like these.